

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (withdrawn).
2. (withdrawn).
3. (withdrawn).
4. (withdrawn).
5. (withdrawn).
6. (withdrawn).
7. (withdrawn).
8. (withdrawn).
9. (withdrawn).
10. (withdrawn).
11. (withdrawn).
12. (withdrawn).
13. (withdrawn).
14. (withdrawn).
15. (currently amended) A method for treating a hernia comprising the steps of:
exposing the hernia defect;
providing a prosthesis comprising a portion of a truncated cone comprising a crescential cross-section, a first surface, and a second surface wherein the first surface forms at least one channel, said channel being incomplete;
introducing said prosthesis wholly in the extra-peritoneal compartment of the abdominal wall to fill the defect; and ~~but which provides~~

providing a relatively pressure free passage of an anatomical structure ~~past~~ through the prosthesis.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the method is for treatment of inguinal ~~or femoral~~ hernia.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~wherein the prosthesis provided to fill the defect is the prosthesis of claim 1 further comprising receiving and partially enclosing the anatomical structure in said channel. [[,]] wherein at least 30% of the circumference of said anatomical structure is enclosed by said prosthesis.~~

18. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said prosthesis is introduced in the extra peritoneal compartment of the abdominal wall.

19. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the method is for treatment of femoral hernia.

20. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein providing a relatively pressure free passage comprises

compressing said anatomical structure less than 40-70% of its width.

21. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein providing a relatively pressure free passage comprises

compressing said anatomical structure less than 20-50% of its width.

22. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein providing a relatively pressure free passage comprises

compressing said anatomical structure less than 5-30% of its width.

23. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein providing a relatively pressure free passage comprises

compressing said anatomical structure less than 1-10% of its width.

24. (new) The method of claim 15 further comprising

compressing said anatomical structure at a pressure in the range of 2 to 10 mm Hg.

25. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said prosthesis further comprises cut-outs for a nerve or a vessel.
26. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said prosthesis further comprises at least one flange.
27. (new) The method of claim 15 further comprising
flexing the prosthesis from a rest position to an open position to increase the wide of access to the channel for receiving the anatomical structure.
28. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein at least 30% of the circumference of said anatomical structure is enclosed by said prosthesis.
29. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising
attaching said flange to tissue.
30. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising transitioning said flange between a collapsed and an extended position.
31. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising
extending said flange to the musculature of the inguinal canal.
32. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising
extending said flange inferomedially.